

OXFORD OBSERVER



MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

The Scripture surpasses the most ancient Greek authors, vastly in native simplicity, liveliness and grandeur. Homer himself never reached the sublimity of Moses' Songs, especially the last, which all the Israelitish children were to learn by heart. Never did any ode, either Greek or Latin, come up to the worthiness of the Psalms, particularly that which begins "The Mighty God, even the Lord hath spoken," this surpasses the utmost stretch of human invention. Neither Homer of any other poet ever equalled Isaiah describing the Majesty of God, in whose sight "the nations of the earth are as small dust, yea less than nothing and vanity," seeing that it is he that stretched out the heavens "like a curtain and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."—Sometimes this prophet has all the sweetness of an eclogue in the smiling images he gives us of peace, and sometimes he soars so high as to leave every thing below him. What is there in antiquity that can be compared to the lamentations of Jeremiah when he tenderly deplores the misery of his country? Or the prophecy of Nahum, when he foresees in spirit the proud Ninevah fall under the rage of an invincible army. We fancy that we see the army, and hear the noise of arms and chariots. Every thing is painted in such a lively manner as strikes the imagination—the prophet like outdoes Homer.—Read likewise Daniel denouncing to Belshazzar, the Divine vengeance ready to overwhelm him, and try if you can find any thing in the most sublime originals of antiquity that can be compared to those passages of sacred writ. As for the rest of scripture every portion of it is uniform and constant, every part bears the peculiar character that becomes it. The history, the particular details of laws, the descriptions, the vehement and pathetic passages, the mysteries and prophecies, appear a natural and beautiful variety. In short, there is a great difference between the heat, sets and the prophets, as there is between a false enthusiasm and the true. The sacred writers, being truly inspired, in a sensible manner express something divine, while the others, striving to soar above them selves, always shew human weakness in their loftiest flights.—*Cumbray's Dialogues upon Eloquence*

Religion in a female secures all her interests.—It graces her character, promotes her peace, endears her friendship, secures esteem, and adds a dignity and worth inedescrivable to all her deeds. How sweet when the mistress of a family is the handmaid of the Lord—when the mother of children is an example of piety—when the wife of the bosom is espoused to the Redeemer; how desirable that the daughter be a chaste virgin of Christ! that the sister lean on his arm who sticketh closer than a brother! that the songsters of the temple belong to the Heavenly choir! how pleasant, when the absent husband can think of home, and reflect that angels watch the place: that they guard the interest and health of his heaven-born companion, and the children of the covenant! When about to leave her a widow, and commit to her exclusive care her helpless offspring, how consoling, if her character is such, that she can lean on the widow's God, and put her children under the guardianship of Him, who is the Father of the fatherless! Then be just to your wife, and support her by the hope that he shall meet them all in Heaven.

Religion has a peculiar sweetness, when it mingles with the modest softness of the female character. So the dew-drop borrows odour and color from the rose.

Females need the comforts, the hopes, and the prospects of religion, more if possible than the other sex. Subjected to the trials of disobedience, and the weakness of feeble constitution, their state, when raised by improvement, and propped with Christian consolations, is still a state of subjection and pain.—Suppose one of your number yoked to a husband of acid temper, and the prey of disappointment and disease, where, but from Heaven, does there dawn upon her one beam of light? But, if she can look upward and deserv a place of rest when the toils of life are finished—a home where she may be happy, a friend who will ever be kind, and a nature raised above fatigue, and pain, and death—then, while the pains of living are softened by the hope of dying, and earth blotted out by the glories of Heaven, she can exercise patience and submission, till the time appointed for her release. Then, religion fills the cup with

pleasure, that was full of gall; converts the veriest hovel into a palace, and adapting the spirit to its lodgment, makes it happy. Thus, the hope of Heaven, if that hope was a dream, smooths her passage to the tomb, and renders religion essential to her happiness.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A VISIT TO THE GLACIERS OF NORWAY.—A visit to the Glaciers of Justedal, and to the Mantle of Lodal, a mountain in the interior of Norway, so called from its being always covered with snow, and which lies above 150 English miles N. E. of Bergen.—By G. Bohr, of Bergen.

The journey to the Mantle of Lodal, the highest mountain summit amidst the splendid and stupendous glaciers which lie between Justedal and Oldent may be commenced either from the end of Lysteford; or from the farm-house of Rednei, near the Church of Goupe. Mr. Bohr chose the first of these routes, although in summer it is perhaps the most difficult of the two. Through the cultivated valley of Dahl, a side branch of the cheerful rich valley of Lyster, you come to Storhaugen, about seven English miles from Lysterford. Five miles farther on, you reach a picturesque elevation, about 2,513 feet above the level of the sea, from which you descend to a delightful resting-place, called Storksel. Here Nidal, the first valley in Justedal, inclosed on each side by lofty snow-covered mountains, has already begun to display its enchanting scenery; combining what is most beautiful with what is most fearful. Through green fields covered with corn and grass, with the houses of the peasants scattered over them, you advance along its grey colored stream, with its banks shaded by trees, but overhung by dark naked precipices, which threaten to fall on your head. About three miles on you reach the Church of Justedal, 621 feet above the level of the sea. Between the farm-house of Kiersdal, opposite the parsonage-house, the traveller discovers five small water-falls from the rock of Kiersdal, which, in their descent, unite into one, the velocity of which, before it reached the river, is so great, that it rises again in vapors.

Opposite to the farm-house of Krege, the first large skyblue colored mass of ice begins to shine, called the Glacier of Berset, a branch of the huge mass which covers Lodal. Its lower margin is about 1,440 feet above the level of the sea. There, where Kroudal, Krege Dal, and Melvirs Dal, meet one another, is a fine and picturesque situation, abounding in all the beauties peculiar to the lower Alpine regions. Every thing that nature does in these valleys is impressive. A little farther east and farther up, the road passed another majestic mass of ice, called the Glacier of Niggard, which is at present larger, and in its former effects was more destructive, than the Glacier of Berset. In addition to what Von Buch and Professor Smith have said, in their accounts of these glaciers, I shall quote an extract on this subject from the archives of Bergenhause. "At the farm of Berset, on the 21st of August, 1712, attended by sheriff, the Daillif of the District, and six chosen inspectors, to estimate the damage which the glacier had occasioned. Two old men declared, that in their youth, the glacier had been high up in a cleft of mountain, but that during the last ten years, it had descended about 600 feet upon the open plain, bearing before it all the earth and stones lying on the surface of the ground. (This mass of ice, called *Moraine*, is what the Swiss call *Moraine*.) In breadth it extended about 1,630 feet; so that to the west, across the valley, from the mountain to the river, all was covered with ice. From the south, too, the ice had descended into the valley, so the farm was deprived of the greatest part of its pasture grounds, though what remained was at present very green. There was a small quantity of corn in the ear, but unripe, from the strong cold wind which now more than formerly descended from the glaciers. The excessive reflection of the sun's rays, too, from the ice, was found to be injurious to the meadow ground. Within a few years all the houses on the farm had been carried away, by two successive falling masses of snow, and were set up again in new situations."

Other instances are to be found of the encroachment of the glaciers and of the mischief occasioned by them. An old woman, who died in the year 1810, according to the parish book of Justedal, had been often in the old farm house of Niggard, shall inhabitants according to her account, and that of several other persons, did not leave it till the ice had pushed the house away. The peasant Clause Elvekragen remembers seeing,

about fifty years ago, the roof of a house buried in the moraine; so that there is good reason to believe, that a great part of the valley now covered by the glaciers has been formerly inhabited. At the same time, there is unquestionable evidence, that many of the glaciers in Justedal are at present growing less, both in depth and length. The mighty accumulation of moraine, which this very glacier of Niggard had formerly pushed before it, is now about 1726 feet below its margin, while the bare sides of the mountain show its depth now more than two hundred feet less than it has once been. The yearly amount of the difference, however, is periodical changes; it is impossible, from the want of accurate observation, to ascertain. The tradition, that they increase and diminish every seventh or nineteenth year, is of equal authority with any other gratuitous hypothesis with regard to the season and the weather. The crops at Elvekragen this year were very good, while nothing but the moraine stood between the glacier and the ripe corn.

On Melvirs borders Stipdal, over which the shealings of the inhabitants of Justedal lie spread. (These are the mountain huts to which the natives of the valleys in Norway repair in summer, when the high pastures are accessible to their cattle.) These mountain downs and plains, beneficent nature has enriched with many luxuriant trees and plants.

In the beginning of July, the snow had vanished from the pastures. A beautiful summer here follows a long winter. The length of the day, the stillness of the night, the heat reflected from the side of the mountains, concur to waken almost instantaneously the power of nature. The author of nature saw it necessary, that, in regions where the summer is sadly contracted, plants should spring up, bloom, and ripen, if the shortest possible time. On the 11th of July the peasants had begun to draw up to their friendly shealings. First came a drove of cattle, followed with natives, followed by a peasant, with his little child on his back, then the mother and her household. All were singing and singing—every thing was activity and gladness. Sometimes, indeed, masses of snow threatened to tumble down upon them from the rocky summits, and fragments of the rocks themselves which had fallen, contributed more to awaken apprehension, but the sight of the cheerful valley banished every disagreeable impression, while the glacier seemed necessary as a contrast to the beauty of the scene. Step by step, the glacier of Blota Steg (the Bear's Path) presented itself to our view, like an immense theatre between ice-covered mountains, the sides of which, like the scenes of a theatre, embellished with the most picturesque groves inclosed this majestic mass of ice. Several objects in front of it show beyond doubt that this, like the other glaciers in Justedal, had extended farther down, and was of greater depth in former days. The river Justedal, which formerly went under his glacier, now runs between the ice and the moraine, which it had formerly carried down with it, and ~~was~~ ^{is} ancient limits. At ~~the~~ ^{the} place was a ~~sort~~ ^{old} ancient road, laid with stones, over which the peasants, about eighty years ago, used to pass to their shealings. About this time the glacier broke through with such force, that those who were going to the shealing, could scarcely open themselves a way with axes, though the prodigious offshoots which had come from it the foregoing day. Close beside this stone road, under hanging rocks and immediately before the glacier, were full grown birch, mountain-ash, and other trees, with the common sub-alpine shrubs and plants. The glacier ascends to near the foot of Lodal's Mantle, the inexhaustible snows of which feed this and all the other glaciers around.

If by the north-west side of the glacier, you press forward through several wild stretches of valley-ground, whose precipitous sides some terrible giant seems in his wrath to have overlaid with a multitude of loose masses of rock, which seems just about to crush the passing wanderer, you come at last to the shealings of Faaberg, about 1280 feet above the level of the sea. Here the happy pastoral life, and the true alpine scenery, exhibit themselves in their finest and most peculiar characters. Between four and five miles from the cots of Faaberg, Stordal begins to be narrower and narrower, till at once the whole scene is changed, and every thing becomes wild and frightful. Yellow meadows and green mountain-downs now touch on large desolate fields of sand and gravel, and small stones, and masses of rock of the size of a castle. These fields are cut through by many small

streams of water, gurgling from both the bottom and surface of the glacier above. The whole is inclosed by naked columns of rock, and in the background the lower margins of the two proudest of the offspring of Lodal's Mantle, the glaciers of Lodal and Trangdal, present themselves, at the height of 1597 feet above the level of the sea. They are separate from one another by a small mountain, covered all over with ice and snow. The nearest verges of the glaciers exhibited innumerable clefts of the most splendid appearance, and of a sky-blue color. The moraine showed clearly that these glaciers too, formerly descended about 1700 feet further down: while the dark naked sides of the mountain, as if the surface had been shorn off, showed that they had been formerly about 200 feet deeper.

When he talked with the purpose of pleasing, Bonaparte often told anecdotes of his life in a very pleasing manner; when silent he had something dismal in the expression of his face; when disposed to be quite at ease, he was, in Madame de Staél's opinion, rather vulgar. His natural tone of feeling seemed to be a sense of internal superiority, and of secret contempt for the world in which he lived, the men with whom he acted, and even the very objects which he pursued. His character and manners were upon the whole strongly calculated to attract the attention of the French nation; and to excite a perpetual interest even from the very mystery which attached to him, as well as from the splendor of his triumphs. The supreme power was residing in the Luxembourg ostensibly; but Paris was aware, that the means which had raised, and which must support and extend that power, were to be found in the humble mansion of the newly christened Ruedes Victoires.

Some of these features were perhaps harshly designed; as being drawn *recensibus odii*.—This disagreement between Bonaparte and Madame de Staél, from whom we have clearly described them, is well known. It originated about this time, when, as a first rate woman of talent, she was naturally desirous to attract the notice of the Victor of Victoires. They appear to have misunderstood each other; for the lady, who ought certainly to know the best, has informed us, "that far from feeling her fear of Bonaparte removed by repeated meetings, it seemed to increase, as his best exertions to please could not overcome her invincible aversion for what she found in his character." His ironical contempt of excellencies of every kind, operated like the sword in romance, which froze while it wounded. Bonaparte seems never to have suspected the secret and mysterious terror with which he impressed the ingenious author of *Corinne*; on the contrary Las Cases tells us that she combined all her efforts, and all her means, to make an impression on the general. She wrote to him when distant, and as the Count ungallantly expresses it, tormented him when present. In truth, to use an established French phrase, they stood in a false position with respect to each other. Madame de Staél might be pardoned for thinking that it would be difficult to resist her wit and her talent, when exerted with the purpose of pleasing; but Bonaparte was disposed to repel rather than encourage the advances of one whose views were so shrewd, and her observations so acute, while her sex permitted her to push her inquiries farther than one man might have dared to do in conversing with another. She certainly did desire to look into him "with considerate eyes," and on one occasion put his abilities to the proof, by asking him rather abruptly, in the middle of a brilliant party at Talleyrand's, "whom he esteemed the greatest woman in the world, alive or dead?" Her, madam, that has borne the most children," answered Bonaparte, with much appearance of simplicity. Disconcerted by the reply, she observed that he was reported not to be a great admirer of the fair sex. "I am very fond of my wife, madam," he replied, with one of those brief and piquant observations, which adjourned a debate as promptly as one of his characteristic manœuvres would have ended a battle. From this period there was enmity between Bonaparte and Madame de Staél; and at differ, at times he treated her with a harshness which had some appearance of actual personal dislike, though perhaps rather directed against the female politician than the woman of literature. After his fall, Madame de Staél relented in her resentment to him; and we remember her during the campaign of 1814, presaging in society how the walls of Troyes were to see a second invasion and defeat of the Huns, as had taken place in the days of Attila, while the French Emperor was to enact the second Theoderic.

[From Sir Walter Scott's *Life of Napoleon*.] Italian victories, Napoleon at Paris after his victory, described by Sir Walter Scott.

In a metropolis where all is come that can vary the tedium of ordinary life, the arrival of any remarkable person is a species of holiday; but such an eminent character as Bonaparte—the conqueror—the sage—the politician—theundaunted braver of every difficulty—the invincible victor in every battle—who had carried the banners of the Republic from Genoa till their approach scared the Pontiff in Rome, and the Emperor in Vienna, was no every day wonder. His youth, too, added to the marvel, and still more the claim of general superiority over the society in which he mingled, though consisting of the most distinguished persons in France; a superiority cloaking itself with a species of reserve, which inferred, "You may look upon me, but you cannot penetrate or see through me." Napoleon's general manner in society, during this part of his life, has been described by an observer of first rate power; according to whom, he was one for whom the admiration which could not be refused to him, was always mingled with a portion of fear. He was different in his manner from other men, and neither pleased nor angry, kind nor severe, after the common fashion of humanity. He appeared to live for the execution of his own plans, and to consider others only in so far as they were connected with, and could advance or oppose them: He estimated his fellow mortals no otherwise than as they could be useful to his views; and, with a precision of in-

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JAMES BRIDGE,
JESSE ROBINSON,
SANFORD KINGSBERRY,
JOHN PITTS,
S. G. LADD,
WM. CLARK,
GEO. EVANS.

HARRISBURG CONVENTION.—We particu
larly invite the attention of our readers to
the notice which was adopted at *Hallowell*,
on the 6th instant. This Convention a *Har
risburg* will probably be one of considerable
interest to the inhabitants of this State, espe
cially to that portion of them who are *Wool
growers* and *manufacturers*. It is generally
supposed that almost every State east of the *Potomac*, and north and west of the *Ohio*, will
be represented; it therefore becomes highly
important that *Maine* should have her *inter
ests* ably represented in this assembly.

NOTICE.

The undersigned having been appointed
by meetings of several Towns in the
County of Kennebec to designate a time
and place, and notify a convention of the
manufacturers, *Wool growers*, & friends
of the Agricultural and manufacturing
interests of the State of *Maine*, for the
purpose of selecting Delegates to the
general convention of the States, to be
held at *Harrisburg* in the State of
Pennsylvania, on the 30th instant, and
to take such other measures as may be
thought expedient, to elicit and diffuse
all information necessary to indicate the
most effectual means of protecting and
sustaining the growth and manufacture
of *Wool*, and other prominent staples of
the country.—Hereby give notice to the
public that *Hallowell*, in the county of
Kennebec, and Thursday, the 19th day of
July, instant, at 11 o'clock in the
forenoon, have been designated as the
time and place for the meeting of said
convention. It is hoped that the activi
ty and promptness of those who may
feel an interest in this most important
public concern, will be able to surmount
all difficulties which may arise from the
short time to elapse before the *Harris
burg* Convention.

JAMES BRIDGE,
JESSE ROBINSON,
SANFORD KINGSBERRY,
JOHN PITTS,
S. G. LADD,
WM. CLARK,
GEO. EVANS.

July 6, 1827.

INDEPENDENCE.—This day so deserving
of remembrance by *Americans*, was ob
served in the usual manner in many
towns in this State. The following sen
timents we have selected from among
the many offered on that day.

In *Augusta*.

The Heroes of the Revolution—They are fast
paying the debt of nature, while our country
still withholds from them the reward due
their toils and sufferings.

The National Administration—The Oak
which gathers strength from the blasts that
assail it.

The State Administration—Judging it by
“its measures,” we owe it our cordial appro
bation, and support.

Agiculture, Commerce and Manufactures—
Protection to the last is encouragement to
the first, and life to the second.

By Geo. Bibby, Esq. of Athens—The Hon.
Poleg Sprague. The enlightened statesman
and the old soldier's friend.

By J. H. Williams—The State of *Maine*.—
Internal improvement her highway to great
ness.

By a Guest—Party spirit, a deadly Viper,
nearly inanimate. May it sting those only
who harbor it in their bosoms.

Col. Edward Williams, Chairman of
the Committee of Arrangements, having
been called on for a toast, rose and ad
dressed the President at some length,
expressing, in his own behalf, and that
of the young men of *Augusta*, the pleasure
derived from the presence of a dis
tinguished guest, the Hon. John Chande
ler. Col. Williams proceeded to com
pliment him, in handsome terms, for the
able, dignified and independent manner
in which that gentleman had discharged
his various public duties; and gave the
following toast:

The Hon. John Chandler—Our distinguis
hed guest. By his honest and stern republican
consistency; by his ability and zeal displayed
in the U. S. Senate, in advancing the best
interests of the country and of this State, and
in opposing all innovations upon State rights,
he merits and receives the high approbation
of his constituents.

Gen. Chandler rose and spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen: I do not rise
with the view to make a speech to you, as
seems to have become fashionable on similar
occasions, and sir, were I to attempt it under
the feelings produced by the manner in which
the Chairman of the Committee has been

pleased to speak of me, I should likely suc
ceed; and I do assure you gentlemen that

nothing could be more gratifying to the feelings

of the young men of

Augusta, to have you, gentlemen, to accept my sincere thanks for the very flattery

in which you have been pleased to

express your approbation of my conduct;

and I do assure you gentlemen, it has made

an impression on my mind that nothing can

excel, and in return I beg leave to offer you

a sentiment:

The young men of Augusta—Independent
and liberal, may they long enjoy the benefits
resulting from the transactions of the day
anniversary of which we celebrate, and may
their prosperity be equal to their liberality.

In *Portland*.

The day—While celebrating this anni
versary, let us not forget those to whom unshak
en valor and patriotism, we owe our freedom
and independence.

Our country—The centre of the great solar
system of political liberty,—may she shine
on through endless ages, ever glorious and
ever free.

Internal improvements—The best guarantee
of the civil and political prosperity of our
country.

South America's liberty—

“God prosper the cause! O it cannot but
thrive.”

While the pulse of one patriot heart is alive
Its devotion to feel and its rights to main
tain!”

By Tammany Society in New-York.

By a Brother—Our next *President*—May

his spirit never be carried so far as to pre

vent the Presidential chair being filled by the
most worthy.

At *Haverhill*, Mass.

Political Currency—Give us that which
deals not the scales—We care not for the
stamp.

Mr. John J. Jerome, of Boston, being cal
led upon for a sentiment, replied as follows:

Mr. President: I offer as a sentiment, the
words of John Adams, as expressed to me
when I had the honor to announce to him the
election of his son to the Presidency of the
United States: “If it is for the good of my
country, I rejoice at it. If it should prove
otherwise, I shall regret it.” As it has pro
ved for the good of our country, we rejoice at
it.

By the Hon. Israel Bartlett.—May local dis
tinctions of East and West, Buckskin and
Yankee be forgot, and may we in the words
Mr. Jefferson, say, “we are all Republicans,
we are all Federalists.”

Hickory—Very good in the field, but good
for nothing for *Cabinet Work*.

We learn that Rev. JOHN BISBE has
accepted the invitation of the *Universal
ist Society* in this town, to become their
pastor, and that he will commence his
labor with them Sabbath after next, be
ing the fourth Sabbath in July.

Rev. RUSSELL STREETER, who recently
ministered to the above Society, has ac
cepted an invitation from the *Universal
ist Society* in Watertown, Mass., to be
come their pastor, and will commence his
labor in that place next Sabbath.

E. Argus.

IMPRESSION.—Capt. Myers of brig *Atlantic*, arrived at *Charleston*, S. C. from
Bordeaux, reports having been spoken
June 7, lat 24 35, long 59 10, by a pri
vate under Buenos Ayrean flag, the
captain of which impressed two Amer
icans of the crew of the *Atlantic*, one of
whom was released. Richard Wilson, of
Salem, was the seaman detained. It
is stated that there were on board the
privateer other American seamen who
had been impressed, as well as some
Frenchmen. This matter should be in
vestigated by our government, and mea
sures be adopted to put a stop to this
species of man-stealing. Capt. Myers,
it is said, can give such information as
will enable the government to identify
the privateer.

*Extract from the Journal of the brig Herminia,
arrived at Philadelphia.*

EARTHQUAKE.—June 5, lat. 33 40, N.
lon. 33 35, W. at half past 8, P. M. the
weather pleasant and clear, with a brisk
breeze from the Eastward, we experi
enced a severe shock of an earthquake,
which continued about one minute. A
letter from an intelligent and respecta
ble source, communicates the following
political intelligence:—“It is said the
French government have claimed in
demnification of this government for
captures of French vessels, and that a
meeting of the *Cortes* yesterday with
closed doors, was occasioned by the Min
ister of France having addressed a note
to this government to that effect. It was
at first supposed the privateer fitting
from that capital to the 25th day. A
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Poetry.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

TO ELIZA.

The nearest resemblance fair Eliza, of thee,
Is the rose bud just blooming in summer's
mild hours;
Who's beauties declare when expanded shall
be;
Each tongue shall proclaim the queen of
all flowers.
Happy the youth who hereafter shall see
This bud to a flower of maturity grown;
But happier, thrice happier that mortal shall
be,
Who is destin'd this flower of sweet fra-
grance to own.
Beware fairest maid, for an insect may blight
This bud of fair promise, and pride of the
bower:
So be guarded by day, and guarded by night;
Remember, sweet bud, thou mayst ne'er be
a flower. —Y.

THE MARINER'S SONG.

BY ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

A wet sheet and a flowing sea,
A wind that follows fast,
And fills the white and rustling sail,
And bends the gallant mast;
And bends the gallant mast, my boys,
While, like the eagle free,
Away the good ship flies, and leaves
Old England on the lee.
O for a soft and gentle wind!
I heard a fair one cry;
But give to me the soaring breeze,
And white waves heaving high;
And white waves heaving high, my boys,
The good ship tight and free—
The world of waters is our home,
And merry men are we.
There's tempest in yon horned moon,
And lightning in yon cloud;
And hark the music, mariners,
The wind is piping loud;
The wind is piping loud, my boys,
The lightning flashes free—
While the hollow oak our palce is,
Our heritage the sea.

THE TIDE OF TIME.

Through sunny plains and valleys green
Yon silvery streamlet winds its way,
While on its banks fresh flowers are seen,
That smiling seem to woo its stay.
It must not stay, the current's force
Forbids it here to find repose:
But onward still it takes its course
And sadly murmurs as it goes.
Upon its polished breast no more
Sweet flowers their breathing perfume shed,
Its path now the rocky shore,
Its final rest the ocean's bed!
Thus down the stream of time we glide
From youth and joy to age and pain;
We cannot check the ceaseless tide,
Or bid hope's blossom's bud again.

RURAL ECONOMY.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE TEA PLANT.
Tea is the leaf of a shrub which grows in several provinces of Chiua, Siam, and Japan. It is planted in rows, and pruned to prevent luxuriance. "Vast tracts of hilly land (says Sir G. Staunton) are planted with it, particularly in the province of Tochen. Its perpendicular growth is impeded for the convenience of collecting its leaves, which is done first in the spring, and twice afterwards in the course of the summer. Its long and tender branches spring up almost from the root without any intervening naked trunk. It is bushy like a rose tree, and the expanded petals of the flower bear some resemblance to that of the rose."

"The tea shrub must have reached three years growth before the leaves are fit to be plucked, which it then bears in plenty, and very good ones. In seven years it rises to a man's height; but as it grows but slowly, and bears but few leaves, it is cut down quite to the stem. The leaves it bore having been previously gathered. The next year many young twigs and branches grow out of the remaining stem, which bear leaves in such abundance, as to amply compensate for the loss of the former shrub. Some defer cutting them down till they are ten years old."

"It is generally believed that there is but one species; the difference depending on the nature of the soil, culture, age, and manner of drying; for it has ever been observed, that a green tea tree planted in a black tea country, will produce black, and on the contrary; and that on examining several hundred flowers, brought from the black and green tea countries, their botanical characters have always appeared uniform."

"No particular gardens or grounds were formerly allotted for this plant; it was cultivated round the borders of the fields, without any regard to the soil; but it has since become so important a branch of Chinese commerce, that they have formed regular plantations of it in various parts of their extensive empire. The soil selected is generally of a strong quality, which requires little or no preparation."

"When the tea plant has reached the growth of three years, the leaves are collected very carefully one by one, lest they should be torn. The first gathering, which is called Ficki Tsjua, or powdered tea, because the Japanese grind it to powder, and dip it in hot water, begins in the middle of the first moon, immediately before the vernal equinox. These leaves are fully opened, being only two or three days old; they are called the flower of the tea, and fetch the best price."

"The second gathering called Tootsja, or Chinese tea, because it is infused and drunk in the Chinese manner, begins about a month after the first; it is

often sold for the first, especially by those who carefully pick it up, and separate the smallest and tenderest leaves. The third and last gathering, called Bau Tsjau, is in June, the leaves are sorted into three different classes, according to their quality. It is said that the greatest quantity imported into Europe, is of the third or grossest sort, and of this the natives in general drink.

"The first process is that of making holes in the ground at short distances from each other, in a straight line, this is done by laborers with an implement for the purpose, having a long handle and sharp pointed head. After the ground is prepared, another class of laborers are employed in sowing the seed. This is done by putting a few of the seeds, varying in number from six to twelve, into each of the holes, which are generally four or five inches deep in the ground, they are then watered, and vegetate with little further care.

"The tea leaves when gathered are prepared in Tsiusi, as they are termed, that is, public drying houses or laboratories, built for the purpose, and where every person may bring leaves to be dried. There are, in these public laboratories—1st, Several ovens, sometimes as many as twenty, each of which is three feet high, with a wide, flat, square or round iron pan at the top; the side, over the mouth of the oven, is bent upwards, for the person who attends the drying, who stands on the opposite side secure from the fire, and turns the leaves.—2d, One or more low but very long tables, covered with fine reed mats, on which the leaves are to be rolled.—3d, A number of workmen, some of whom are employed in attending the drying of the leaves by the oven, and others sitting cross-legged by the tables, to roll the leaves as they come hot from the pan. Sir G. Staunton in his description, says, 'young women are employed in rolling the leaves.'—The leaves must be dried when fresh, and they are generally brought to the laboratory the same day they are gathered. The process of drying is thus performed:—Some pounds of the leaves are put into the iron pan, which, by the fire underneath, has already been heated to a degree, that the leaves when they are put in may crackle at the edges of the pan. The fire in the oven must also be so regulated, that the man attending the drying pan may be able to stir up the leaves with his hands, which he continues to do till they become so hot, that he cannot handle them any longer; the instant they become so, he takes them out of the pan with a shovel, broad at the mouth like a fan, and pours them upon the mat in order that they may be rolled.

"It may be here necessary to refute a very common prejudice already noticed, viz. that the leaves of tea are dried on copper plates, and consequently must be in some degree poisonous, for chemistry has now ascertained, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that no materials but iron and earthenware are used for the drying of tea; and that were it tinctured with the slightest particle of copper, it would easily be detected by the chemical experiments that have been made on it.

"The method of preparing the leaves of tea is nearly the same, both by the Japanese and Chinese, the only difference appearing to be, that the latter expose the leaves to the steam of boiling water, or put them in soft water for half a minute, a process not observed by the Japanese. Each person takes before him a quantity of the leaves, and whilst they are hot, immediately commences rolling them with the palms of their hands until they are cold. They then undergo a second drying very slowly and deliberately, for fear of breaking the curls.—After this they are again delivered to the rollers, and if the leaves are not full dry, the process of drying and rolling is repeated a third time. Great care is taken in the second and third drying, that the heat of the fire be lessened in proportion as the leaves have lost their juices and humidity, or they would be burnt or turned black.

"For the more valuable teas, the process of drying and rolling is repeated four or five, or even seven times, thus drying the leaves more gradually, by which means they preserve that lively and agreeable green color which distinguishes the best teas. The pans are always washed clean with hot water between each drying, because a sharp juice sticks to the edge and bottom of the pan, which is apt to discolor the leaves. The leaves are next spread on the floor, or on tables covered with mats, and are sorted into classes, by which the grosser leaves, and such as are not well curled or too much burnt, are separated from the rest. The dust and smaller leaves are also separated by means of sieves. It may be necessary to observe, the above description more particularly refers to green teas, not so much care being taken in curling and preserving the color of black teas. The leaves of Ficki tea are dried to a much higher degree, as it is always used in powder, and some of these leaves, which are very young and tender, are put into hot water, and then laid on thick paper, and so dried without being curled at all.—When the tea has been dried, it is packed in earthen vessels or baskets; and

after it has been kept some months in these, it is taken out and again dried over a gentle fire, to deprive it of all its humidity. It is preserved from the air in earthen or porcelain vessels, until it is packed into boxes lined with lead, covered with a species of fine tissue paper, in which manner it is exported.

"The Chinese preserve the finest sorts of tea in coned vessels made of tureen, tin or lead, covered with neat matting of bamboo until intended for exportation.

"The Chinese infuse their tea in boiling water as we do, and it is said, that when they have drawn off the proper quantity, they prepare the leaves with sugar oil and vinegar for an evening salad! The Japanese reduce their tea to a fine powder, which they dilute with warm water, until it has acquired the consistency of their soup; this makes the tea of a more rough, earthy, and disagreeable taste.—Their manner of serving it is curious; they place before the company the tea equipage, and a box in which a quantity of finely powdered tea is contained; the cups are then filled with warm water, and taking as much powder as will lay on the point of a knife, they throw it into each of the cups, and stir it till the liquor begins to foam; it is then presented to the company, who sip it while it is warm; this custom also prevails in some parts of China. Tea does not appear to have been introduced into Europe until the year 1606, when the Dutch imported a quantity, for which they exchanged dried sage with the Chinese, who were very fond of it, and called it the wonderful European herb, attributing to it numerous virtues; the rate of barter was four pounds of tea for one pound of sage. (Guthrie, in his Grammar of Geography, asserts that the Portuguese were the first who introduced it into Europe.) For such as they could not get in exchange, they purchased at 8d or 10d per pound, and bringing it home, they readily sold it in Paris for 30 livres, and some as high as 100 livres per pound. It was introduced in this country before the restoration, as mentioned in the first act of Parliament that settled the excise on the King for life in 1660. Catharine of Lissabon, wife of Charles the II, rendered the use of it common at his court."

DATE OMISSIONS.

PORTSMOUTH, June 23.

POLITICAL.—By the account of the proceedings of the General Court as published in another part of the Journal, it will be seen that an attempt was made on Wednesday last, to procure in the House the passage of a joint resolution expressing the opinion of the legislature as to the merits of the administration, and that the consideration of this resolution was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 17 to 70.

An attempt will probably be made in this State, and elsewhere, to give an impression abroad that the vote in the House indicates a state offe unfriendly to the administration;—in the apprehension that an attempt will be made to give this coloring to the transaction, we think it worth while to state, that from the letters we have seen from members of the House since the vote, and from our own knowledge of the opinions of many gentlemen who voted to postpone, we are convinced that no such inference ought to be drawn. We have not the least doubt that, if it were necessary to pass any vote by which the opinion of the legislature could be ascertained on this subject, a vast majority of the members would be found to be on the side of the administration. We come to this conclusion from a knowledge of the opinions of many of the leading men in both branches.—The President of the Senate, Hon. Matthew Harvey, (we have the authority of a member of that body)—who is a brother to the opposition member of Congress from this State, has expressed his opinion in favor of Mr. Adams; Hon. Henry Hubbard, Speaker of the House—has declared the same opinion; both these gentlemen attended the Republican Administration Caucus, and the latter made one of the most decided speeches that was there delivered. The elections made by the legislature clearly indicate the same opinions:—the former Clerk of the House was removed chiefly because he was suspected of having written certain scurrilous paragraphs for an opposition newspaper;—the Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Commissary General, are all known to be friendly to Mr. Adams, and these officers were all elected from our own knowledge of the opinions of many gentlemen who voted to postpone, we are convinced that no such inference ought to be drawn. 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